

## LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Water:** Buck Lake

**Management Type:** Trout Only

**Location:** 8 miles north of Winthrop, located within Sec 22, T36N, R21E

**Size:** 15 acres, maximum depth 25 feet, 300 acre-feet

**Water Source:** Surface and groundwater

**Outflow:** Intermittent

**Management History:** Buck Lake is a year-round trout water that can provide good fishing for anglers interested in a quality experience in a semi-remote setting. Located on USFS property near Eight Mile Creek, there is a small campground and boat launch site available. Standard gear rules apply along with a five fish limit, and most of the fishing effort occurs from shore or in small boats. Occasional winterkill has precluded yearly planting of fingerling trout, so catchable rainbows 8-10 inches are planted in the spring and provide good fishing throughout the summer months.

However, in recent years, the illegal introductions of yellow perch have seriously compromised the trout fishery. The larger trout planted in the spring are being out-competed for food by the more numerous perch, resulting in a decrease in average fish size. In addition, the non native yellow perch have access to downstream waters which contain ESA listed steelhead, spring chinook, and bull trout.

**Current Management Objectives:** Management at Buck Lake should concentrate on a native species trout fishery in a small lake setting. Fish planting should be geared toward species such as cutthroat and rainbow trout. Catchable size fish plants would provide the highest benefit, but small numbers of fingerling plants should also be investigated. Year round season status would remain, as would the five fish limit.

### **Fishery Objectives:**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Fish/hour</u>	<u>Fish/angler</u>	<u>Ave size</u>
RB/CT	Production	Standard	1.0	2-3	11"-12"

**Angler use objective (# angler days):** 500

**Stocking Objectives:**

<u>Lakes</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total Fish</u>	<u>Fish/Acre</u>	<u>Fish/pound</u>	<u>Planting Month</u>
Buck	RB	1,000	67	4-5	May
Buck	CT	1,000	50	350	Sept

**Management Strategy:**

- Check over-winter survival in spring on fingerling planted fish
- Mix species to provide angler interest (rainbow/cutthroat)
- Monitor angling activity and catch rates periodically throughout season
- Closely monitor any invasive species and react immediately to control population by all means before treating with rotenone (angling, electroshocking, netting, and regulation changes).